

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device for irrigating soft biological tissues comprising a body arranged and constructed for insertion between a first and a second biological tissue and having a continuous outer wall and a continuous inner wall ~~which are held apart by one or more spacers~~, the upper extremities of the inner and outer walls each having an upper sealing surface that defines a fluid seal with said first tissue, said upper sealing surfaces forming ~~which together form~~ an upper vacuum channel with the first biological tissue and the lower extremities of the inner and outer walls each having a lower sealing surface that forms a fluid seal with the second biological tissue, said lower sealing surfaces forming ~~which together form~~ a lower vacuum channel with said second biological tissue.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 and further including a vacuum tube leading from outside the body into ~~the~~ a space between the inner and outer walls, ~~and where a vacuum drawn through the vacuum tube is distributed evenly about the~~ to create a vacuum in said upper and lower vacuum channels.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 and further including an irrigation tube leading from outside of the body, through both the exterior and interior walls so as to terminate within ~~the~~ a central space defined by the interior wall.
4. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 3 and further including an aspiration tube leading from outside of the body through both the interior and exterior walls and terminates at a different location to the irrigation tube.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 3 wherein the irrigation tube extends into ~~the~~ a central space defined by the interior wall so that it is distant from an aspiration port formed in the interior wall.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim ~~1~~ 13 wherein the spacers are perforated.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim ~~1~~ 13 wherein the spacers comprise first and second tiers of spaced apart spacers with no overlap between the spacers of the first tier and the spacers of the second tier.
8. (ORIGINAL) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 wherein there is a boundary between the upper vacuum channel and the lower vacuum channel and further including a first vacuum tube leading from outside the body into the upper vacuum channel and a second vacuum tube leading from outside the body into the lower vacuum channel.
9. (ORIGINAL) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 wherein the lower vacuum channel and the upper vacuum channel are of the same configuration.
10. (ORIGINAL) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 9 wherein the lower vacuum channel and the upper vacuum channel are circular in plan.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 wherein the lower vacuum channel is circular in plan and ~~the~~ a major portion of the upper vacuum channel is circular

in plan and ~~the~~ a minor portion is rebated.

12. (ORIGINAL) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 wherein the upper extremities of the inner and outer walls and the lower extremities of the inner and outer walls comprised enlarged lips.
13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 further comprising spacers that hold said inner and outer walls apart from each other.
14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surgical irrigation device according to claim 1 wherein said upper and lower vacuum channels extend peripherally around respective portions of said first and second tissues when the device is inserted between said first and second tissues.
15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An irrigation device for two biological tissues comprising:
a housing sized and shaped to fit between the two biological tissues and formed of a first and a second flat surface, an inner wall defining an interior space within the housing and an outer wall forming an annular space with said inner wall, a first sealing member formed on said first flat surface, and a second sealing member formed on said second flat surface, said sealing members being in communication with said annular space and forming fluid seals with the biological tissues; and
a vacuum tube in communication with at least one of said inner space and said sealing members.
16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An irrigation device according to claim 15 wherein said sealing members are formed on said inner and outer walls.
17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An irrigation device according to claim 15 further comprising

a liquid tube in communication with said inner space and providing irrigation fluid.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surgical irrigation device comprising a body having a continuous outer wall and a continuous inner wall which are held apart by one or more spacers, the upper extremities of the inner and outer walls each having an upper sealing surface which together form an upper vacuum channel and the lower extremities of the inner and outer walls each having a lower sealing surface which together form a lower vacuum channel;

wherein said sealing surfaces are formed by enlarged lips on said inner and outer walls.

19. (NEW) An irrigation channel according to claim 1 wherein said upper and lower channels have different configurations.

20. (NEW) An irrigation channel according to claim 15 wherein said upper and lower channels have different configurations.